# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION COVER SHEET

# SUBJECT: EDWARD KENNEDY (DUKE) ELLINGTON

FILE: <u>100-HQ-434443</u>



# FILE DESCRIPTION

SUBJECT	EDWARD KENNEDY	(DUKE)	ELLINGTON	
FILE NUMBER	100-43444	3		

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF An

APRIL 20, 1959 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

**管理的基本的** EDWARD K. (BUKE) KILINGTON Somme Born April 29, 1899 Fashington, D. C.

Duke XEllington No investigation has been conducted by the FBI pertinent to your inquiry concerning the above-named individual.

However, the files of this Bureau contain the following information concerning Ellington developed during the course of other security-type investigations:

The May 12, 1938, issue of the "Daily Worker", an east coast Communist newspaper, contained an article captioned "Harlen Youth Parley Rallies for Jobs, Peace." This article listed. Duke Ellington among the prominent endorsers of the first All-Harlen Touth Conference which was to convene on? May 13, 1938, in New York City. The All-Harlem Youth Conference has been described as "among the more conspicuous Communist-front groups in the Racial --- subclassification" by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in a report issued by that group in 1948 (pages 73 and 75).

(61-7563-60X6) The "West Coast Volunteer" for June and July, 1941, a monthly news bulletin published by the Henry Eaton Post of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade at Los Angles, California, reflected that the Hollywood Chapter of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade on July 26, 1941, gave a barn dance to raise funds. The publication related that Duke Ellington had appeared at the dance with a portion of his band. The Veterane of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade has been cited by the Attorney General of the United States as within the purview o Executive Order 9835.

According to a reliable source the Lands of 100-Ellington appeared on a list of the Committee of Sponsors for a dinner given at Cto's Restaurant, Hollywood, California, on November 10, 1941. The dinner was given under the auspices of the American Committee to Save Refugees, the Exiled Writers' Committee, and the United American-Spanish Ald Committee. The American Committee to Save Refugees has been cited as a Communist front by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities in a report dated March 29, 1944; the

Avni Z Ith State: Request received 3/25/53: Reason, Ellington's name submitted by Educational Exchange Service.

A SECURITY INFORMATION-CONFIBURTIAL

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### SECURITY INFORMATION-CONFIGURTIAL

Exiled Friters' Committee has been described by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in its 1948 report as mestablished by the Communist League of American Friters to bolster the Communist front, American Committee to Save Refugees. The Exiled Friters' Committee worked with other Communist fronts in the Spanish Communist refugee educations and, the United American-Spanish Aid Committee has been cited by the Attorney General of the United States as within the purview of Executive Order 9835. (100-7061-115)

The 1944 report of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, which described the Artists' Front to Win the War as a Communist front, listed Duke Ellington as a sponsor of that organization at the time of its debut at a mass meeting at Carnegie Hall in New York City, on October 10, 1942.

The June 23, 1943, issue of the Daily Worker contained an article captioned Kegro Tribute to Hit Back at Axis Plot Here. This article related that Duke Ellington, among others, was to appear at a program to be held on June 27, 1943, designated as a "Tribute to Negro Servicemen." The article stated that the program was to be supported by the Negro Labor Victory Committee and the National Negro Congress, among other organizations. Both the afore-mentioned organizations have been cited by the Attorney General of the United States as Communist within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

(61-6728-A)

The October 7, 1943, issue of the "Daily Norker" contined an article captioned "Civic Leaders Endorse Davis." According to this article Duke Ellington, among others, was to appear at the Golden Gate Ballroom on October 24, 1943, in a "Davis Victory Show" to pay tribute to Benjamin J. Pavis, Jr., Communist Party candidate for the City Council of New York. The October 10, 1943, issue of the "Daily Norker", in an article captioned "Ben Davis Candidacy Arouses National Interest," related that Duke Ellington was among those backing Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., for City Council. It is to be noted

#### SECURITI INFORMATION-CONFINENTIAL

that Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., New York City Councilman, was among the Mational Board members of the Communist Party convicted in United States District Court, New York, New York, of violating the Smith Act. (100-149163-4)

Information was received from a feliable source in January, 1944, that Duke Ellington had mailed out approximately 1500 letters on behalf of the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax and that the Committee had been receiving money from the people Ellington contacted. The National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax has been cited by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in their 1947 report as "among the Communist-front organizations for racial agitation" which also serve as "money-collecting media."

(100-11507-204, page 10)

It has been reliably reported that in a "report of the Kational Board" presented by one Herb Signer at the American Touth for Democracy National Convention, June 13-16, 1946, held in New York, New York, the following was presented. "The New York 'Tribute to Fats Faller' at Carnegie Hall in April, 1944, sponsored by American Youth for Temocracy, turned into a tremendous, spontaneous demonstration of inter-racial unity. Among those who joined with American Youth for Democracy in this event were Duke Ellington---and others to numerous to mention. American Youth for Democracy has been cited by the Attorney General of the United States as Communist within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

On May 14, 1944, according to a feliable source a concert was held at Carnegie Hall, New York City, under the sponsorship of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refuges Committee.

Duke Ellington was said to have volunteered his professional services for this concert which was reportedly attended by 2000 persons. The Joint Anti-Fascist Refuges Committee has been cited by the Attorney General of the United States as Communist within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

The "Daily Worker" of August 7, 1944, in an article captioned "Stars Lead Coast Democratic Committee", reflected that Bandmaster-Composer Duke Ellington was a member of the Executive Board of the Hollywood Democratic Committee. The

#### SECURITY INFORMATION-CONFIDENTIAL

Hollywood Democratic Committee has been cited by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in a report issued in 1948, as a Communist front. (100-238754-4)

The January 2, 1946, issue of the "Daily Worker" contained an article captioned "Iugoslav Relief Opens 1946 Drive." This article stated that the American Committee for Iugoslav Relief had opened its 1946 activities with a Town Sall benefit concert, which concert was sponsored by Duke Ellington among others. The American Committee for Iugoslav Relief, Incorporated has been eited by the Attorney General of the United States as Communist within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

(100-212169-4)

According to a reliable source Duke Ellington was elected to the Board of Directors of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions, Incorporated at the annual membership meeting of that organization held at the Alvin Theater, New York City, on February 10, 1940. The Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions has been cited as a Communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities in a report issued by that group on April 25, 1951, and in others.

The "Brooklyn Eagle", a New York City publication, on May 5, 1947, contained an article concerning a bazaar which had opened on May 4, 1947, sponsored by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship. According to this article the Bazaar opened with a variety concert starting Duke Ellington among others. The National Council of American-Soviet Friendship has been cited by the Attorney General of the United States as Communist within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

(100-146964-1301p17)

A New York City publication "The New Leader" issue of September 30, 1950, contained a feature article by Duke Ellington captioned "No Red Songs For Me". In a forward te this article the editors of the afore-mentioned publication stated that the "Daily Forker" in its May 27, 1950, issue, and again in issues dated August 25, and August 27, 1950, published stories to the effect that Ellington had signed the Stockholm Peace Petition. The forward continued that when Ellington returned from a European tour he immediately repudiated the stories printed by the "Daily Forker", and had authored the article following as a further repudiation.

#### SECURITI INFORMATION-CONFIGURTIAL

In Ellington's article he stated that during a stay in ker is Stockholm, Sweden, in the course of a European tour, he had been approached by an individual who requested that he, will Ellington, sign a paper indicating opposition to the atom bomb. Ellington denied signing the paper and stated that the individual had departed. He continues by stating that when he arrived back in the United States people began telling him that the "Daily Norker" had written a story about his having signed a Communist petition whereupon he immediately sent a wire demanding that his name be removed from the petition and threatening a legal suit if this was not done. He stated that apparently his telegram hadn't had much the coneffect and he was taking this opportunity in The New Leader" to state that unless his name was removed from the so-called "Stockholm Petitions" within 48 hours after publication of the statement, he, Ellington, would authorize his attorney to begin legal proceedings against those who were "trying to defame my name and reputation. In this article Ellington further stated "I've never been interested in politics in my whole life, and don't pretend to know anything about international affairs. The only 'Communism' I know is that of Jesus Christ. I don't know anyother." He further stated that during the last war he had helped sell bonds for the purpose of defeating Germany, Japan and Italy, and in the event of another war he would help sell bonds to defeat whoever is then America's enemy. (100-370500-A)

The foregoing information is being furnished as the result of your request for an FBI file check only and is not to be construed as a clearance or nonclearance of the individual involved. It is being furnished for your confidential information and is not to be disseminated outside of your department.

AND FIELD OFFICES

MAILED JUL 25 1955 NAME CHECK

July 22, 1955

DURE LELLINGTON SUMMARY also known as Edward Kennedy Ellington Born: April 29, 1899 Washington, D. C.

No investigation has been conducted by the FBI pertinent to your inquiry concerning the above-named individual.

However, the files of this Bureau contain the following information concerning Ellington developed during the course of other security-type investigations:

The May 12, 1938, issue of the "Daily Worker," an east coast Communist newspaper, contained an article captioned "Harlom Youth Parley Rallies for Jobs, Peace." This article listed Duke Ellington among the prominent endorsers of the first All-Marlem Youth Conference which was to convene on May 13, 1938, in New York City. The All-Harlen Youth Conference has been described as "smong the more conspicuous Communist-front groups in the Racial-subclassification" by the Californie Cormittee on Un-American Activities in a report issued by that group in 1918 (pares 73 and 75).

The "West Coast Volunteer" for June and July, 1941, a monthly news bulletin published by the Henry Faton Post of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade at Los Angeles, California, Abraham Lincoln Brigade on July 26, 1941, gave a barn dance to raise funds. The publication related that Duke Ellington had appeared at the dance with a portion of his band.) The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade has been cited by the Attorney General of the United States as within the purview of (100-7060-9#POROE) Executive Order 10450.

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information in the past advised that the name of Duke Ellington appeared on a list of the Cormittee of Sponsors for a dinner given at Ciro's Restaurant, Hollywood, California, on Hovember 10, 19:1. The dinner was given under the auspices of the American Committee to Save Refugees, the Exiled Writers' Committee, and the United American-Spanish Aid Committee.) The American Committee to Save Refugees has been cited as a Communist front by the Special Committee on Un-Amorican Activities in a report dated March 29, 1944; the Exiled Writers! Committee has been described by the California Corrittee on Un-Averican Activities in its 1948 report as "established by the Communist League of American Writers to bolster the Communist front, American Committee to Save Refugees. The Exiled Writers! Committee worked with other Communist fronts in the Spanish Communist refugee education: and, the United American-Spanish Aid Committee has been cited by the Attorney General of the United States as within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

The 19th report of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, which described the Artists' Front to Win the War as a Communist front, listed Duke Ellington as a sponsor of that organization, at the time of its debut at a mass meeting at Carnegie Hall, in New York City, on October 16, 19t2.

(61-7582-1298, p. 576)

The June 23, 1943, issue of the "Daily Worker" contained an article captioned "Hegro Tribute to Hit Back at Axis Plot Here." This article related that Duke Ellington, among others, was to appear at a program to be held on June 27, 1943, designated as a "Tribute to Megro Servicemen." The article stated that the program was to be supported by the Megro Labor Victory Committee and the Mational Megro Congress, among other organizations. Both the afore-mentioned organizations have been eited by the Attorney General of the United States as Communist within the purview of Executive Order 10450. (61-6728-A)

The October 7, 1343, issue of the "Deily Worker" contained an article captioned "Givie Leaders Endorse Davis." According to this article Duke Ellington, among others, was to appear at the Golden Gate Ballroom on October 24, 1943, in a "Davis Victory Show" to pay tribute to Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Communist Party candidate for the City Council of New York. The October 10, 1943, issue of the "Daily Worker," in an article captioned "Don Davis Candidacy Arouses National Interest," related that Duke Ellington was among those backing Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., for City Council. It is to be noted that Benjamin J. Pavis, Jr., Hew York City Councilman, was among the Estional Board members of the Communist Party convicted in United States District Court, Hew York, New York, of Violating the Smith Act, (100-149163-A)

Information was received from a confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past that in Jenuary, 1944, Duke Ellington had mailed out approximately 1500 letters on behalf of the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax and that the Committee had been receiving money from the people Ellington contacted. The National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax has been eited by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in their 1947 report as "money the Commist-front organizations for racial agitation" which also serve as "money-collecting modia."

According to a source who has furnished reliable information in the past, in a report of the Hational Board propented by one Norb Signer at the American Youth for Democracy Hational Convention, June 13-16, 1946, held in New York, New York, the following was presented. The New York Tribute to Fats Waller at Carnegie Hall in April, 1944, sponsored by American Youth for Democracy, turned into a premendous, spontaneous demonstration of inter-racial unity. Among those who joined with American Youth for Democracy in this event were Duke Ellington——and others too numerous to mention. American Youth for Democracy has been cited by the Attorney General of the United States as Communist within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

(61-777-642, p.41)

On May M, 1944, according to a confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past, a concert was held at Carnegie Hall, New York City, under the sponsorship of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refuges Cornittee. Tuke Ellington was said to have volunteered his professional services for this concert which was reportedly attended by 2,000 persons. The Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Cornittee has been cited by the Attorney General of the United States as Communist within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

The "Daily Worker" of August 7, 1944, in an article eaptioned "Stars Lead Coast Democratic Committee," reflected that Bandmaster-Composer Duko Ellington was a member of the Executive Board of the Hollywood Democratic Committee. The Hollywood Democratic Committee has been cited by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in a report issued in 1948, as a Communist front. (100-138754-A)

The Jamery 2, 1946, issue of the "Daily Worker" contained an article captioned "Yugoslav Relief Opens 1946 Drive." This article stated that the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief had opened its 1946 activities with a Town Hall benefit concert, which concert was aponsored by Duke Ellington among others. The American Committee for Yugoslav Relief, Incorporated has been cited by the Attorney General of the United States as Communist within the purview of Executive Order 10450. (100-212169-A)

According to a confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past Duke Ellington was elected to the Board of Directors of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions, Incorporated, at the annual membership meeting of that organization held at the Alvin Theater, New York City, on February 10, 1946. The Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions has been sited as a Communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities in a report issued by that group on April 25, 1951, and in others.

(100-338892-45 p. 8)

The "Brooklyn Eagle", a New York City publication, on May 5, 1947, contained an article concerning a bazaar which had opened on May 4, 1947, sponsored by the Mational Council of American-Soviet Friendship. According to this article the bazaar opened with a variety concert starring Duke Ellington among others. The Mational Council of American-Soviet Friendship has been cited by the Attorney General of the United States as Communist within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

A New York City publication "The New Leader" issue of September 30, 1950, contained a feature article by Duke Bllington captioned "No Red Songs For He." In a forward to this article the editors of the afore-montioned publication stated that the "Daily Worker" in its May 27, 1950, issue, and again in issues dated August 25, and August 27, 1950, published stories to the effect that Ellington had signed the Stockholm Peace Petition. The forward continued that when Ellington returned from a European tour he immediately repudiated the stories printed by the "Daily Worker," and had authored the article following as a further repudiation. In Ellington's article he stated that during a stay in Stockholm, Sweden, in the course of a European tour, he had been approached by an individual who requested that he, Ellington, sign a paper indicating opposition to the atom bomb. Ellington denied signing the paper and stated that the individual had departed. He continues by stating that when he arrived back in the United States people began telling him that the "Daily Worker" had written a story about his having signed a Communist petition whereupon he immediately sent a wire demanding that his name be removed from the potition and threatening a legal suit if this was not done. He stated that apparently his telegram hadn't had much effect and he was taking this opportunity in "The New Leader" to state that unless his name was removed from the so-called "Stockholm Petitions" within 48 hours after publication of the statement, he, Ellington, would authorize his attorney to begin legal proceedings against those who were "trying to defame my name and reputation." In this article Ellington further stated "I've never been interested in politics in my whole life, and don't pretend to know anything about international affairs. The only Communism I know is that

of Jesus Christ. I don't know any other." He further stated that during the last war he had helped sell bonds for the purpose of defeating Germany, Japan and Italy, and in the event of another war he would help sell bonds to defeat whoever is then America's energy. (62-60527-33549)

The foregoing information is furnished to you as a result of your request for an FBI file check and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance of the individual involved. This information is furnished for your use and should not be disseminated outside of your agency.

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# CONFIDENT

#### THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE

#### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy Paris 8, France

Date:

March 21, 1961

To:

Director, FBI

From:

Legat, Paris (100-0-1154)

Subject:

EDWARD KENNEDY ELLINGTON

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SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR CLASSIFICATION ACTION

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As indicated in Paris routing slip dated 1/6/61, data contained in relet was furnished

information on 1/6/61 (W)(U)

On 3/10/61 advised that the subject stayed at the Hotel de la Trémoille, 14 rue de la Trémoille, Paris 8, 11/21/60 - 1/7/61. He was in France to direct the orchestration of the film "Paris Blues", which was being made at the motion picture studios located in Boulogne-sur-Seine, France, for the Jason Monica Corp. and Associated Artists, 25 rue d'Astorg, Paris 8. / He did not

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINERCASON-FCIM HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED Date of Review

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CLASSIFIED BY SPTCIJA DECLASSIFY ON: 25X\_ 1-8-99 #99-1425

Recorded - 58

June 5,

mation:

John Edgar Hoover, Director Federal Bureau of Investigation

EDWARD KENNEDY (DUKE) ELLINGTON

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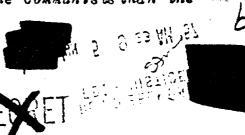
Ellington has never been investigated by this Rureau; the files of this Eureau contain the following inforhowever.

The publication "Eurrent Biography," in 1941 contained a biography of Ellington which reflected he was born on April 29, 1899, in Tashington, D. C., and that he had one son, Herger Ellington, who make attending the Juilliard School of Music in New York, New York.

On May 12, 1938, the Datly Forker, an rost coast communist newspaper, contained an article captioned "Harlen Youth Parley Rallies for Jobs, Peace." The article reflected that the first All Harlen Youth Conference would convene on May 13, 1938. Duke Ellington was listed as one of the prominent endorsers of the conference. In connection with the All Harlem Youth Conference, the 1948 Report of the California Committee on "Nothing more plainly Un-American Activities reflected: reveals the fraud and dishonesty of the Communists than the

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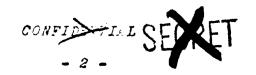
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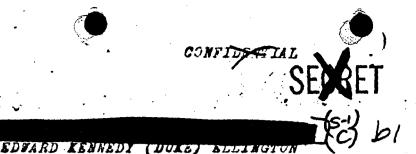
sinister stirring of antagonisms of one racial group against another.... Among the more conspicuous Communist-front groups in the Racial...subclassification...(is) All Harlem Youth Conference." (61-7563-60%)

The June-July, 1941, issue of the "Vest Coast Volunteer," a publication of the Henry Eaton Post of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, Los Angeles, California, reflected that on July 26, 1941, the Kollywood Chapter of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade had given a barn dance to raise funds. The article reflected that Duke Ellington had appeared at the dance. The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade has been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (100-7060-97 page 4)

On November 10, 1941, a dinner was given at Ciro's Restaurant, Hollywood, California, under the auspices of the American Committee to Save Refugees, the Exiled Friters Committee, and the United American Spanish Aid Committee. The program for the dinner listed one Duke Ellington as being on the Committee of Sponsors for the dinner. The American Committee to Save Refugees was cited as a communist front by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities in a report dated Varch 29, 1944. The California Committee on Un-American Activities in 1948 described the Exiled Writers Committee as an organization established by the communist League of American Writers to bolster the communist front, the American Committee to Save Refugees. The Exiled Friters Committee was further reported as having worked with other communist fronts and in 1942 merged into the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee. United American Spanish Aid Committee has been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (100-7061-115)

The report of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, published in 1944, reflected that the Artists' Front to Win the War made its debut at a mass meeting at Carnegie Hall, New York, New York, on October 16, 1942. Exhibit Number 1, set out in the report, which appears to be a program of the above-described mass meeting, reflected Duke Ellington as one of the sponsors. The Artists' Front to Vin the War was cited as a communist front by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities in a report dated March 29, 1944. (61-7582-1298 page 576)





On June 23, 1943, the "Daily Worker" contained an article captioned "Negro Tribute to Hit Back at Axia Plot Here" which reflected that a "Tribute to Negro Servicemen" was to be held on June 27, 1943, in New York, New York. The article reflected Duke Ellington was one of the artists who would be presented. The tribute was supported by the Negro Labor Victory Committee and the National Negro Congress among other organizations. The Negro Labor Victory Committee and the National Negro Congress have been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (61-6728-A)

On October 7, 1943, the "Daily Worker" contained an article captioned "Civic Leaders Endorse Davis." The article concerned Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., the Communist Party candidate for city councilman in New York City. The article reflected a "Davis Victory Show" was to be held on October 24, 1943, at the Golden Gate Bullroom in New York, New York. Duke Ellington was mentioned as one of the artists "who will pay tribute to the Communist leader." On October 10, 1943, "The Worker," the Sunday edition of the "Daily Worker," contained an article captioned "Ben Davis Candidacy Arouses Nat'l Interest." The article reflected: "From the world of art this week came backing from...Duke Ellington..." (100-149163-A)

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in 1944, that Duke Ellington had mailed out approximately 1500 letters on behalf of the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax and that the committee had been receiving money from the people he had contacted. The California Committee on Un-American Activities in 1947 described the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax as being among the communist front organizations for racial agitation which also served as manney-collecting media. 12, 67, 100-11507-204;

At the national convention of the American Touth for Democracy held in New York, New York, in 1946, the report of the National Board was presented on June 15, 1946. The report in reviewing activities of the American Youth for Democracy, reflected that the "Tribute to Fats Valler" held at Carnegie Hall, New York, New York, in April, 1944, had been sponsored by the American Youth for Democracy. The report stated that

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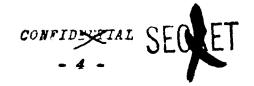
the meeting had turned into a "tremendous, spontaneous demonstration of inter-racial unity." The report further reflected that Duke Ellington was among those individuals who joined with the American Youth for Democracy in this event. The American Youth for Democracy has been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (61-777-742-page 41)

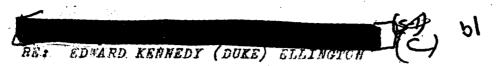
A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in 1944 that on May 14, 1944, a concert was held at Carnegie Hall in New York, New York, under the sponsorship of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee. The informant advised that Duke Ellington was among the persons who volunteered their professional services for the concert. The Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee has been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (100-7061-631)

On August 7, 1944, the "Daily Worker" contained an article captioned "Stars Lead Coast Dem. Committee," which reflected that bandmaster-composer Duke Ellington was a member of the executive board of the Hollywood Democratic Committee. The report of the California Committee on Un-American Activities in 1948 described the Hollywood Democratic Committee as a communist front organized in 1942. (100-138754-A)

On January 2, 1946, the "Daily Worker" contained an article captioned "Yugoslav Relief Opens 1946 Drive." The article reflected that the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief opened its 1946 activities with a concert the preceding evening in New York, New York. Duke Ellington was listed as one of the sponsors of the concert. The American Committee for Yugoslav Relief, Incorporated, has been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (100-212469-A)

On March 11, 1946, the "Washington Daily News" contained an article captioned "Politicians Eye Ickes New Role of Prophet for 10 Million Veters." The article reflected former Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes had become executive chairman of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions. The article reflected "some notable Negro artists and authors are on his committee's nation board of directors or are vice-chairmen. Among them are Duke Ellington, band leader,..." The Independent Citizens



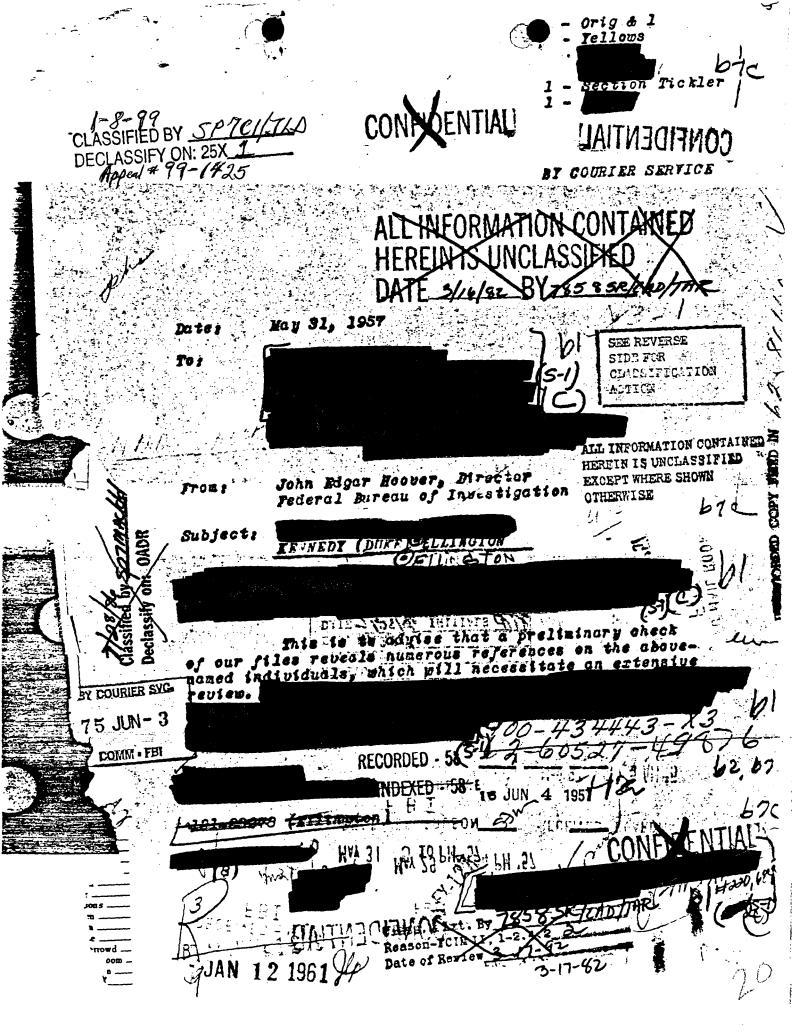


Committee of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions was cited as a communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report Number 1954. (100-338892-41)

On May 5, 1947, the "Brooklyn Eagle," a daily newspaper published in Brooklyn, New York, reflected that a bazaar sponsored by the Mational Council of American-Soviet Friendship had opened with a variety concert on May 4, 1947, at City Center Casino Ballroom, New York, New York. The article reflected that Duke Ellington was one of the persons starring in the concert. The National Council of American-Soviet Friendship has been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (100-146964-1301 page 17)

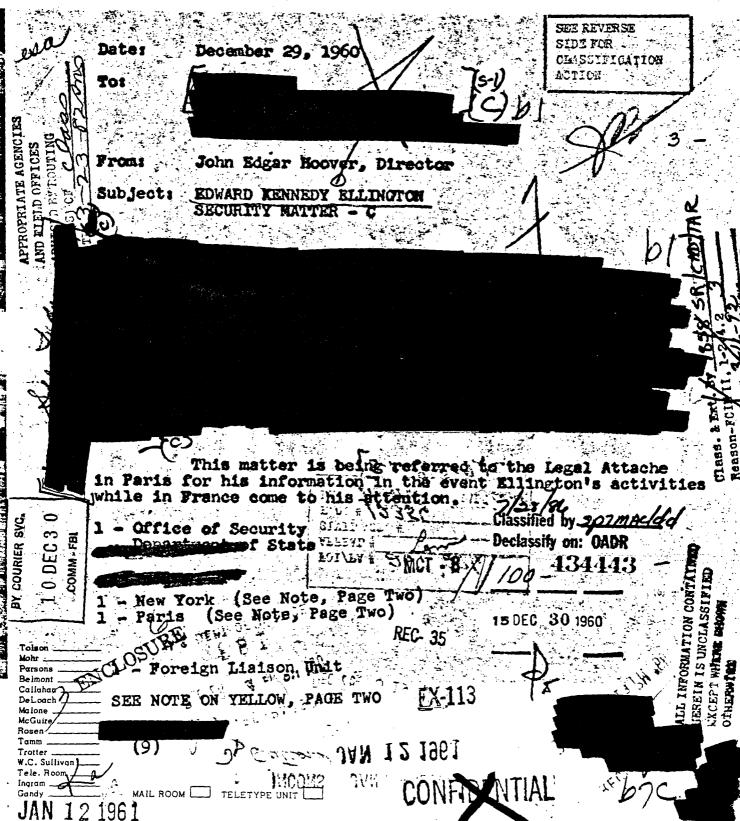
on September 30, 1950, "The New Leader," a weekly magazine, contained an article captioned "No Red Songs For Me" by Duke Ellington. A foreword by the editors indicated that the "Daily Worker," on May 27, 1950, had first reported that Ellington had signed the Stockholm Peace Petition and that on August 25 and 27, 1950, additional stories had been published repeating the same false claim. It was also stated that Ellington, upon his return from a European tour, had repudiated the allegations. In the article, Ellington denied signing the petition and told of his efforts to get his name removed. The Stockholm Peace Petition was "Cited as Communist" by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities in a statement issued July 13, 1950. (100-370500-A)

The foregoing information is furnished as a result of your request and is not to be construed as a clearance or nonclearance of the individual involved. It is furnished for your confidential information and is not to be disseminated outside of your agency.



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THE STATE OF STATE

#### ATTENTION: SAC, NEW YORK, AND LEGAL ATTACHE, PARIS

For the information of the Legal Attache, subject was never the subject of a main case file. However, Bureau files indicate that Ellington has had some affiliation with numerous communist front groups such as the All-Harlem Youth Conference, the Hollywood Chapter of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, the American Committee to Save Refugees, the Artists Front to Win the War and the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax. Furthermore, Ellington reportedly volunteered his professional services for a concert held in 1944 in Carnegie Hall, New York, sponsored by the Joint Anti-Pascist Refugee Committee. He appeared at another concert in 1947 sponsored by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship. He also, according to an article in the October 10, 1943, issue of The Worker, sponsored the candidacy of Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Communist Party candidate for city councilman in New York. Ellington was born 4/29/99 at Washington, D. C.

(S-)(C)

NOTE ON YELLOW: Subject not on SI. He is well-known Negro musician who is presently traveling abroad, according to information received by Bureau from State Department in memorandum received 12/21/60.

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#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

November 21, 1960

FBI Liaison:

11 14 9078 DE 95-3078

For Information Only

Re:

Edward Kennedy Ellington K/a Duke

Born: April 29, 1899

Ellington

Place: Washington, D. C.

Residence:

1619 Broadway

New York, New York

Bureau File Number:

Unknown

Passport Number:

1204297 issued September 24,

1958 at New York; renewed November 15, 1960 at N. Y.

Attorney:

None

#### Travel Plans:

Port of Departure:

New York

Date of Departure:

November 19, 1960

Means of Transportation:

Unknown

Proposed Length of Stay:

Two months

FOI/FA # 267, 276

IVIL ACT. #

Countries to be Visited:

France

E.O. # /2

Purpose of Trip:

Business

2000

ATE 7/28/86 INTELACT

PASSPORT OFFICE

PT/L - Robert D. Johnson

FBI INFO. CLASSIFIE BY DECLASSIFY ON:

134443

COPIES DESTROYED

352 JUL 14 1970

CHICLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVER AemorandumMay 23, 1962 President, FBIRA Trotter Tele. Room SEE REVERSE FROM SIDE FOR **Activity Promoter** CHASSIFICATION ACTION THE FIRST/INTERNATIONAL JAZ SUBJECT: FESTIVAL, WASHINGTON, D. C. 5/31 - 6/3/6201000. LEN. BY 7856 SR/CAD/MC Reason-FCIN II DECLASSIFY ON: 25X / Date of Review 5 1-8-99 25-3078 Enclosed circular is one of a number received from the Department of Justice Recreation Association for possible distribution among our employees. The circular announces sponsorship of captioned festival by the President's Committee of the People to People Program listing Gunther Schuller as Musical Director and Duke Ellington as Musical Host. Bureau indices are negative as to However, Bufile. contains the name as an ex-crew member of "Graf Spee," married to 31 years of age, Paraguayan citizen. Letter 3-12-46 from Legat, Montevideo, Uruguay, placed 27د 24 individuals, all former crew members of the "Graf Spee" or "Tacoma" who were not repatriated to Germany on 2-16-46. Letter also advised the State Department's secret instruction dated 12-18-48 specified that case histories be prepared concerning individuals suggested for repatriation. Concerning Duke Ellington, Bufile 100-43443 contains a Bureau communication to that this individual as Edward Kennedy Ellington had never been investigated by the sureau but the following substance of the information was furnished from Bufile. Ellington has had some affiliation with numerous communist front groups such as the All-Harlem Youth Conference, the Hollywood Chapter of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, the American Committee to Save Refugees, the Artists' Front to Win the War and the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax. Furthermore, Ellington reportedly volunteered his professional services for a concert held in 1944 in Carnegie Hall, New York, sponsored by the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee. He appeared at another concert in 1947 sponsored by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship. He also, according to an article in the October 10, 1943, issue of "The Worker," sponsored the conditions of Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Communist Party candidate for Ellington was born 4/29/99 at Washington, D. C. city councilman in New 10 NOT RECORDED



Memorandum to RE: FIRST INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

## RECOMMENDATION:

Since the enclosed circular will no doubt be available through

public news media and in view of

and of Ellington, it is recommended these flyers

not be distributed.

NAME CHECK

May 22, 1964

DUKE ELLINGTON
400 Central Pk West
New York City

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADD. DISSEMINATION.

No investigation pertinent to your inquiry has been conducted by the FBI concerning the captioned individual. However, the files of this Bureau reveal the following information which may relate to the subject of your name check request.

On May 12, 1938, the "Daily Worker," an east coast communist newspaper, contained an article captioned "Harlem Youth Parley Rallies for Jobs, Peace." The article reflected that the first All Harlem Youth Conference would convene on May 13, 1938. Duke Ellington was listed as one of the prominent endorsers of the conference. In connection with the All Harlem Youth Conference, the 1948 Report of the California Committee on Un-twerican Activities reflected: "Nothing more plainly reveals the fraud and dishonesty of the Communists than the sinister stirring of antagonisms of one racial group against another.... Among the more conspicuous Communistfront groups in the Racial...subclassification...(is) All Harlem Youth Conference."

(61-7563-60X6)
The June-July, 1941, issue of the "West Coast
Volunteer." a publication of the Henry Eaton Post of the
Abraham Lincoln Brigade, Los Angeles, California, reflected
that on July 26, 1941, the Hollywood Chapter of the Veterans
funds. The article reflected that Duke Ellington had appeared
at the dance. The Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade has
been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

(100-7060-97 page 4)
On Rovember 10, 1941, a dinner was given at Ciro's Restaurant, Hollywood, California, under the auspices of the American Committee to Save Refugees, the Exile Writers Committee, and the United American Spanish Aid Committee. The program for the dinner listed one Duke Ellington as being

Original & 1 SECRET SERVICE Request Received-5/21/64

This document contains neither recommendations for conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI, and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. This is incanswer to your request for a check of FBI files.

58 JUN 4 1964

#### Duke Ellington

on the Committee of Sponsors for the dinner. The American Committee to Save Refugees was cited as a communist front by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities in a report dated March 29, 1944. The California Committee on Un-American Activities in 1948 described the Exiled Writers Committee as an organization established by the communist League of American Writers to bolster the communist front, the American Committee to Save Refugees. The Exiled Writers Committee was further reported as having worked with other communist fronts and in 1942 merged into the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee. The United American Spanish Aid Committee has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

(100-7061-115
The report of the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, United States House of Representatives, published in 1944, reflected that the Artists' Front to Win the War made its debut at a mass meeting at Carnegie Hall, New York, New York, on October 16, 1942. Exhibit Number 1, set out in the report, which appears to be a program of the above-described mass meeting, reflected Duke Ellington as one of the sponsors. The Artists' Front to Win the War was cited as a communist front by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities in a report dated March 29, 1944.

(61-7582-1298 page 576)
On June 23, 1943, the "Daily Worker" contained an article captioned "Negro Tribute to Hit Back at Axis Plot Here" which reflected that a "Tribute to Negro Servicemen" was to be held on June 27, 1943, in New York, New York. The article reflected Duke Ellington was one of the artists who would be presented. The tribute was supported by the Negro Labor Victory Committee and the National Negro Congress among other organizations. The Negro Labor Victory Committee and the National Negro Congress have been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450

On October 7, 1943, the "Daily Worker" contained an article captioned "Civic Leaders Endorse Davis." The article concerned Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., the Communist Party candidate for city councilman in New York City. The article reflected a "Davis Victory Show" was to be held on October 24, 1943, at the Golden Gate Ballroom in New York, New York. Duke Ellington was mentioned as one of the artists "who will pay tribute to the Communist leader." On October 10, 1943, "The Worker," the Sunday edition of the "Daily Worker," contained an article captioned "Ben Davis Candidacy Arouses hat'l Interest." The article reflected: "From the world of art this week came backing from...Duke Ellington..." (100-149163-A)

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in 1944, that Duke Ellington had mailed out approximately 1500 letters on behalf of the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax and that the committee had been receiving money from the people he had contacted. The California Committee on Un-American Activities in 1947 described the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax as being among the communist front organizations for racial agitation which also served as "money-collecting media." be 2 674

At the national convention of the American Youth for Democracy held in New York, New York, in 1946, the report of the National Board was presented on June 15, 1946. The report, in reviewing activities of the American Youth for Democracy, reflected that the "Tribute to Fats Waller" held at Carnegie Hall, New York, New York, in April, 1944, had been sponsored by the American Youth for Democracy. The report stated that the meeting had turned into a "tremendous, spontaneous demonstration of inter-racial unity." The report further reflected that Duke Ellington was among those individuals who joined with the American Youth for Democracy in this event. The American Youth for Democracy has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 1045: (61-777-742-page 41)

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in 1944 that on May 14, 1944, a concert was held at Carnegie Hall in New York, New York, under the sponsorship of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee. The informant advised that Duke Ellington was among the persons who volunteered their professional services for the concert. The Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (100-7061-631)

On August 7, 1944, the "Daily Worker" contained an article captioned "Stars Lead Coast Dem. Committee," which reflected that bandmaster-composer Duke Ellington was a member of the executive board of the Hollywood Democratic Committee. The report of the California Committee on Un-American Activities in 1948 described the Hollywood Democratic Committee as a communist front organized in 1942 (100-138754-A)

On January 2, 1946, the "Daily Worker" contained an article captioned "Yugoslav Relief Opens 1946 Drive." The article reflected that the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief opened its 1946 activities with a concert the preceding evening in New York, New York. Duke Ellington was listed as one of the sponsors of the concert. The American Committee for Yugoslav Relief, Incorporated, has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (100-212169-A)

#### Duke Ellington

on March 11, 1946, the "Washington Daily News" contained an article captioned "Politicians Eye Ickes New Role of Prophet for 10 Million Voters." The article reflected former Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes had become executive chairman of the Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions. The article reflected "some notable Negro artists and authors are on his committee's nation board of directors or are vice-chairmen. Among them are Duke Ellington, band leader,..." The Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions was cited as a communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, House Report Number 1954.

On May 5, 1947, the Brooklyn Eagle, a daily newspaper published in Brooklyn, Rev York, reflected that a bazaar sponsored by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship had opened with a variety concert on May 4, 1947, at City Center Casino Ballroom, New York, New York. The article reflected that Duke Ellington was one of the persons starring in the concert. The National Council of American-Soviet Friendship has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

On September 30, 1950, "The Leader," a weekly magazine, contained an article captioned "No Red Songs For Me" by Duke Ellington. A foreword by the editors indicated that the "Daily Worker," on May 27, 1950, had first reported that Ellington had signed the Stockholm Peace Petition and That on August 25 and 27, 1950, additional stories had been published repeating the same false claim. It was also stated that Ellington, upon his return from a European tour, had repudiated the allegations. In the article, Ellington denied signing the petition and told of his efforts to get his name removed. The Stockholm Peace Petition was "Cited as Communist" by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities in a statement issued July 13, 1950. (100-370500-A)

February 19, 1833

BY LIAISON

Mrs. Mildred Stegall The White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Stegall:

DECLASSIFIED BY 7858 SE CAP THE

Set forth herein is data relating to a number of entertainers which may be of interest to you.

The central files of the FBI reveal no pertinent derogatory information concerning the Marlboro Vermont Crahelina and The fingerprint files of the Renthication Division of the FBI contain no arrest data identifiable with based upon background information available.

Attached are separate memoranda regarding the Robert Joffrey Ballet Company, Mitch Miller Men's Chorus and the following individuals:

Duke Ellington

A copy of this communication has not been sent to the Attorney General. This letter of transmittal may be declassified when the enclosures bearing a classification are removed.

Sincerely yours,

Delivered to Militard Stegatile
on 2/14/55 Gill Cold

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February 19, 1968

DUKE ELLINGTON SUMMAR

A summary memorandum containing information from our files regarding captioned individual was furnished to the White House on May 26. 1965.

Since that time, information has been received that bandleader Duke Ellington would appear with James Forman, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, on a program sponeored by the United Ministers on the Texas Southern University campus in October, 1966. Forman was to speak on the theme, "Black Power: A New Religion?"

The fingerprint files of the Identification Division of the FBI contain no arrest data identifiable with Duke Ellington based upon background information submitted in connection with this name check request.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DeLoach Mohr Bishop Casper Callahan Conrad .

Gale

Rosen Sullivan Tavel. Trotter

NOTE: Per request of Mrs. Mildred Stegall, White House Staff.

100- 43 41/43-

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MAILER

DEC 3 11965

NAME CHECK

December 31, 1969

EDWARD KENNEDY ELLINGTON Also Known As: "DUKE" Born: April 29, 1899 Washington, D. C. 13-1

In response to your name check request, refer to a summary memorandum captioned "Duke Ellington," dated May 22, 1964, and sent to State (CU/CP) on March 30, 1966. (100-434443-3)

Since that time, information has been received that bandleader Duke Ellington would appear with James Forman, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, on a program sponsored by the United Ministers on the Texas Southern University campus in October, 1966. Forman was to speak on the theme, "Black Power: A New Religion?" (100-434443-4)

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Request Received - December 11, 1969

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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI, and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. This reply is result of check of FBI investigative files. To check arrest records, request must be submitted to FBI Identification Division. Fingerprints are necessary for positive check.

120/

July 8, 1970

BY LIAISON

Honorable Alexander P. Butterfield Deputy Assistant to the President

The White House Washington, D. C.

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED** HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Mr. Butterfield:

Reference is made to your name check request concerning Edward Kennedy (Duke) Ellington and some other individuals.

Enclosed are separate memoranda concerning the following individuals:

Edward Kennedy (Duke) Ellington

This letter of transmittal may be declassified when it is removed from the enclosure bearing a classification.

Sincerely yours,

**EX-115** 

1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosures (sent direct)

1 - Mr. Gale - Enclosures (sent direct)

CONFIDENTIAL

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JUL 13 1976

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES

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DeLoach Walters Mohr Bishop Casper Callahan Conrad Gale

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JUL 15 1970





# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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	Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
	Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.
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•	For your information: There is no exclosure in
	The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
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(DUKE ELLINGTON)
WASHINGTON -- DUKE ELL INGTON AND HIS ORCHESTRA WILL LEAVE NEW YORK SEPT. 10 FOR A FIVE WEEK CONCERT TOUR OF THE SOVIET UNION, THE STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE TOUR, DURING WHICH THE MUSICIAN WILL CONDUCT 20 CONCERTS, IS

THE FIRST ONE EVER MADE BY ELLINGTON TO THE SOVIET UNION. THE CONCERT TOUR WILL BEGIN IN LENNINGRAD ON SEPT. 13 WITH A

PERFORMANCE IN THE OCTYABR THEATER. ELLINGTON WILL ALSO PERFORM IN MINSK, KIEV AND ROSTOV, AND CONCLUDE THE TOUR WITH CONCERTS IN MOSCOW OCT. 9-12.

9-21--NW217PED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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